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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 14, 2004

Signature: Daniel H. Bobis

(Daniel H. Bobis)

Docket No.: DES-L 3.0-009
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#88
1-22-4

In re Patent Application of:
Tiss et al.

Application No.: 09/904,427

Group Art Unit: 3765

Filed: July 12, 2001

Examiner: A. B. Vanatta

For: COLLAR PROTECTOR

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-RESPONSIVE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JAN 21 2004

Dear Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed December 29, 2003, setting forth a Notice of Non-responsive Reply to an earlier Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application. In the present Office Action the Examiner required further restriction to one of the species in each of the following inventions:

Group I. The collar protector design, Species I at Fig. 1; Species II at Fig. 8 and Species III at Fig. 20.

Group II. The attachment assembly, Species A at Figs. 1 and 8; Species B at Fig. 13 and Species C at Fig. 15.

Group III. The holding members, Species a. at Figs. 1 and 8; Species b. at Fig. 17; Species c. at Fig. 18; Species d. at Fig. 19 and Species e. at Fig. 20.

Applicants elect Species III at Fig. 20 in Group I; Species A at Figs. 1 and 8 in Group II; and Species e. at Fig. 20 in Group III on which respectively the claims, including the generic claims as identified by the Examiner, are readable, namely, claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,

10, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 34 to 61. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application corresponding to the species of the invention identified by the non-elected claims.

Further action on the merits of the claims is now respectfully requested.

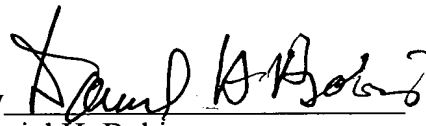
Applicants' attorney appreciates the courtesy extended to the Applicants and regrets any inconvenience the initial response to the Requirement to Elect may have caused the Examiner or the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

If the Examiner has any questions, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000.

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicants' Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Daniel H. Bobis

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